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(54) Title: METHOD FOR OBTAINING NATURAL PRODUCTS FROM PLANT MATERIAL

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for obtaining a natural product (e.g., betulin, lupeol and/or betulinic acid) from a plant extract (e.g., birch bark extract). The method employs a distillation with water and an organic solvent that (i) is water-immiscible, (ii) is capable of forming an azeotropic mixture with water, or (iii) has a boiling point of at least 100°C (e.g., toluene) and an aqueous base (e.g., KOH).